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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

*HSC MONT-FURN.*  
Review Staff: 75/3365/1  
4 November 1975

Mr. A. Searle Field  
Staff Director  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Field:

This is in response to several letters received from your staff over the past two or three weeks, all having to do with Agency contacts with and use of Americans employed by U.S. media outlets. You will recall that this matter was discussed in some detail by the Director, the Deputy Director for Operations, and other Agency officials at a meeting with you, Congressman Johnson, and several of your staff, on 25 October.

As you and appropriate members of your staff have been advised, the Agency intends to continue its policy of not naming specific individuals with whom we are in contact now, or with whom we have had contact in the past. This issue lies close to the heart of the "sources and methods" doctrine, and we believe that we must continue, as we have in the past, not to reveal specific names.

On 25 October, the Director and the Deputy Director of Operations described the evolution of current Agency policy toward media figures. As an attachment to this letter, we are forwarding a narrative description of that policy, along with quotations from appropriate regulations. We are also forwarding excerpts from [redacted] requested by Ms. Sheketoff, and the Agency regulation governing publication of materials written by Agency employees, which she has also requested.

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In Considering Agency contacts with media personnel, it is important to keep in mind that, as stated in the attachment, "...CIA will undertake no activity in which there is a risk of influencing domestic public opinion either directly or indirectly." The Agency does have a responsibility for undertaking certain propaganda activities in foreign countries.

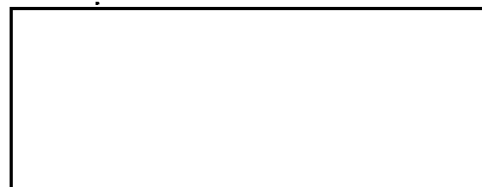
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We hope that this letter, and its attachments, will be helpful to your understanding of the Agency's activities in this area.

Sincerely,

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Attachments:  
As Stated

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